

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended the specification to appropriately reflect that the present application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/904,623, filed July 13, 2001, which is a Continuation-In-Part of Application No. 09/421,062, filed October 19, 1999, which is a divisional of Application No. 10/393,663, filed March 21, 2003, the entire contents of all are hereby incorporated by reference.

Entry of this preliminary amendment and examination of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael R. Cammarata (Reg. No. 39,491) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


Michael R. Cammarata, #39,491

MRC/kpc

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000